

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

IO-12 SCI-06 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 FAA-00 EPA-04

CEQ-02 RSR-01 STR-08 /178 W
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R 191226 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5171
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT

REF: BONN 7209

1. SUMMARY: THE FIRST DAY APPEARS TO HAVE GONE WELL, WITH NO SURPRISES. TODAY' S SCHEDULE (MAY 19) FORESEES SIGNING OF FOUR AGREEMENTS (SEE REFTEL) BREZHNEV' S CALL ON PRESIDENT HEINEMANN, FURTHER CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN BRANDT AND BREZHNEV, AND A RETURN DINNER GIVEN BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY FOR THE CHANCELLOR. OBVIOUSLY FOR SECURITY REASONS, THE MANAGERS OF THE VISIT CONTINUE TO BE VAGUE ABOUT THE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY

2. AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF TALKS, A CERTAIN DIVISION OF LABOR IS BECOMING EVIDENT. BRANDT AND BREZHNEV THEMSELVES APPEAR TO BE
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CONCENTRATING ON DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SCHEEL AND GROMYKO REPORTEDLY SPENT ALMOST ALL THEIR TIME ON CSCE. MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO BAHR MET WITH BREZHNEV'S TWO FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS, ALEXANDROV AND BLATOV TO DISCUSS "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT."

3. BRANDT AND BREZHNEV REPORTEDLY SPENT A LARGE PART OF THEIR TIME TALKING ABOUT LARGE JOINT FRG- USSR PROJECTS, IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBLE ERECTION OF A STEEL MILL IN KURSK. THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THIS ASPECT OF THE VISIT WAS FURTHER UNDERLINED WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHANCELLOR AND GENERAL SECRETARY, CONTRARY TO EARLIER PLANS, WOULD THEMSELVES SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. (SCHEEL AND GROMYKO ARE TO SIGN IT AS WELL).

4. FOLLOWING THE SCHEEL GROMYKO TALKS ON CSCE, THE FRG SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE TWO WOULD CONTINUE TO PROBE THIS SUBJECT AND EMPHASIZED THE BASIC AGREEMENT OF THE TWO SIDES ON THE NEED FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE. BREZHNEV TOUCHED ON THE SAME SUBJECT IN HIS TOAST AT THE FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER, SAYING THAT FRG AND USSR AGREEMENT ON CSCE AND MBFR WOULD " DOUBTLESS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THESE ENTERPRISES."

5. BAHR SPENT TWO HOURS WITH ALEXANDROV AND BLATOV DISCUSSING BERLIN IN WHAT THE FRG SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED AS A " FRANK AND GOOD ATMOSPHERE." THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WHAT WAS PRIMARILY AT ISSUE WAS THE ENTRY OF THE FRG AND GDR INTO THE UN AND THE REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN BY BONN. SOVIET SPOKESMAN SAMYATIN SAID THAT THE USSR HAD HELD STRICTLY TO THE TERMS OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. BAHR IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DESCRIBED HIS CONVERSATION WITH BREZHNEV'S TWO COUNSELORS AS " OUTSTANDING".

6. IN THEIR TOASTS AT THE FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER HOSTED BY THE CHANCELLOR, BRANDT AND BREZHNEV TOUCHED ON MORE GENERAL THEMES IN FRG- USSR BILATERAL RELATIONS. BRANDT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SPIRIT OF OPENNESS AND CONFIDENCE THAT HAD GROWN UP BETWEEN HIM AND BREZHNEV COULD BE " TRANSFERRED TO THE POLITICAL FORCES AND THE CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES." HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FRG IS FIRMLY ANCHORED IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUT ADDED THAT THIS COMMUNITY DOES NOT SEE ITS ROLE AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST ANYONE ELSE BUT RATHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS " SERVING THE ORGANIZATION OF PEACE AND THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLES." BREZHNEV SAID THAT HE SAW A CERTAIN " LOGIC" IN THE FACT THAT THE TASK OF RENEWAL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE GENERATION WHICH WAS OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE WAR. HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION WOULD HAVE UNDERSTANDING FOR WHAT THEIR ELDERS HAD TRIED TO DO.

7. BREZHNEV' S CALL ON HEINEMANN COULD PROVIDE THE FIRST NOTE OF DISCORD IN THE VISIT IF THE PRESIDENT CARRIES OUT HIS EARLIER STATED INTENTION TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION. HAVING TAKEN A RATHER STRONG LINE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT THIEU IN APRIL, AND HAVING BEEN SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM FOR DOING SO, HEINEMANN IS SAID TO FEEL THAT HE SHOULD GIVE BREZHNEV " EVEN- HANDED" TREATMENT. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE DONE IN VERY LOW KEY AND MAKE RELATIVELY FEW WAVES.
HILLENBRAND

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